

ORGANIC SHORT COURSE FOR AG PROFESSIONALS

When: Wednesday, September 8th, 2004
Time: 9:00 - 3:30 p.m. (Registration 8:30 a.m.)
Location: Rockford Town Hall
3039 Dague Avenue SE
Buffalo, MN 55313



Who: All public and private agricultural professionals, producers and other interested citizens. Please note - Priority for registration will be given to professionals who serve the agriculture sector, including but not limited to: Extension, SWCD, USDA-NRCS, other state and federal agencies, MN Department of Agriculture, Risk Management, Farm Service Agency, lenders, crop consultants and agricultural educators. Remaining space will be filled, first come-first serve basis. **Note: CEU credits are available from the U of M.**

Program Synopsis: This program was designed to help agricultural professionals learn about opportunities in the organic sector and improve their capacity to serve clients interested in organic production, processing, and/or marketing. Funding was provided to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by USDA-SARE. Local coordination is provided by the Mid- MN Mississippi River Resource Conservation and Development Council. Enrollment capacity - 50 trainees. **Cost: \$10 if registered by September 1st. \$20.00 after September 1st.**

Presentations will include: Organic Farmer Stories, Organic Production and Market Trends, Final Rule Basics, Certification Basics. In the afternoon, a choice of four tours will be offered. (Tours will be filled on a first come-first served basis).

- **Livestock Production Tour** – Topics: feeding issues, nutrition, quality management, forage systems/rotational grazing, maintaining organic standards, food safety and retail marketing.
- **Vegetable Production Tour** – Topics: soil fertility, cover crops, root cellaring, organic production basics, weed & pest control, rotation, community supported agriculture (CSA) and marketing.
- **Crop Tour** – Topics: weed control, rotation, tillage, cover cropping, seed, genetically modified organism issues and markets.
- **Marketing and Business Tour** – Topics: consumer demand, growth patterns, sourcing, direct and collaborative marketing, infrastructure needs, barriers for more organic businesses in Minnesota.

Buffet lunch featuring local and organic products.

Directions: The town hall is located approximately 2 miles south of the intersection of County Highway 14 and Highway 55, approximately 2 miles east of Buffalo.

EEO STATEMENT: All programs and assistance of the RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Registration Form

**Organic Short Course for Ag Professionals
September 8, 2004
Rockford Town Hall**

(Registration is limited to the first 50 applicants)

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

Pre-Registration Required!

**Please register by September 1st
Mail this completed form and registration fee
or email with the requested information to:**

**U of M Extension Service-Wright County
Attention: Betsy Gilkerson
10 Second Street NW
Buffalo, MN 55313-1186
Phone: 763-682-7399
Fax: 763-682-7913**

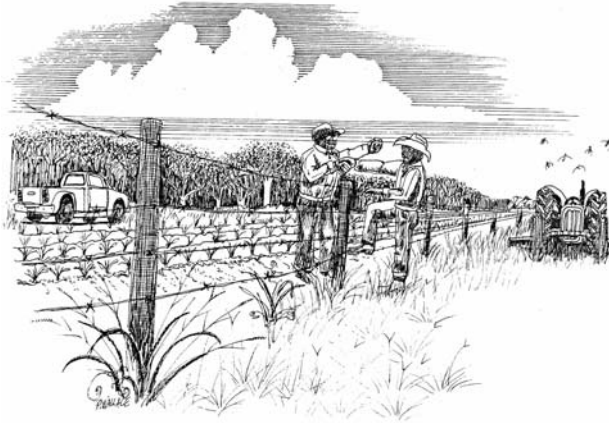
**Cost: \$10 if registered by September 1st
\$20.00 after September 1st**

Checks Payable to: Onanegozie RC&D Council

We will contact you if your registration is **NOT** accepted. Late payment will be taken at the door.

U of M Extension Service
10 Second Street NW
Buffalo, MN 55313-1186

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9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Registration begins at 8:30 am

Sponsors include the MN Department of Agriculture,
Mid-Minnesota Mississippi River and Onanegozie
Resource Conservation & Development Councils, with
funds from USDA's Sustainable Research and Education
(SARE) Program.

Additional support has been provided by:
Glen Borgerding - Organic Land Management
University of MN Extension Service - Wright County
USDA - Farm Service Agency
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wright Soil & Water Conservation District

Agenda

- 8:30 Registration**
- 9:00 Welcome**
Jack Russek, Mid-MN Mississippi River RC&D Council;
Meg Moynihan, MN Department of Agriculture
- 9:05 Local Organic Farmer Perspectives**
Ron Desens – Sleeping Cat Organic Farm, Litchfield:
Grass feed beef & free range roaster chickens
Marv Hinnenkamp – Pride of Main Street Dairy,
Sauk Centre: Organic dairy markets
Doug Lundeen – Lundeen Farm, Cokato: Organic
crop production
- 10:00 Organic Production and Market Trends**
Meg Moynihan, MN Department of Agriculture
- 10:15 Break**
- 10:30 Federal Organic Rule and How Organic
Certification Works**
Joyce Ford, Organic Independents
- 11:30 Morning Wrap Up (15 minutes) and Lunch
featuring local and organic food**
- 12:30 - 3:00 Field Tours - Organic Considerations
and Practices (Select One).** Groups will travel
by van for discussions with resource people en route.
- A. Beef Production Tour:**
Marvin & Laura Bihl - *Home Place Organic Beef*
Clearwater
- B. Vegetable Production Tour:**
Greg and Mary Reynolds - *Riverbend Farm*, Delano
- C. Business and Marketing Tour:**
Katherine Roseth - *Lakewinds Coop*, Minnetonka
- D. Crop Production Tour:**
Scott Anderson - Organic Crop Farmer, Litchfield
- 3:15 - 3:30 Short Course Wrap-up and Evaluation**